

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 28, 2003

Passage: Matthew 22:34-38

*Verse to Memorize: Romans 5:5*

### Day 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on Matthew 22:34-36. Describe the scene. Who is Jesus speaking with in this passage? Who asks a question and what do they ask? What is their intent in asking this question?
2. How does Jesus' encounter with the Sadducees (see vv. 23-32) and the Pharisees fulfill Old Testament prophecy (consider Psalm 2:2-3)? Why do these two groups, despite being in opposition to one another, seem so intent on destroying Jesus?
3. How does Jesus respond to the lawyer's question? Who is Jesus quoting in His response (consider Deuteronomy 6:5)? Do you think the Pharisees expected this response from Jesus? Why or why not?
4. By quoting Moses, what was Jesus saying about His relationship with Moses' teaching? Had he come to do away with Moses' teaching, or to affirm and complete it (consider Matthew 5:17)?
5. How does Jesus' response affirm His claim to be the Messiah?

### Day 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on Matthew 22:37. In what three ways are we to express our love for God? {What fourth way of expressing our love for God does Mark add to his account of this story (consider Mark 12:30)?}
2. Taken together, what do these four terms seem to indicate about how much of our life our love for God is to consume?
3. What does it mean to love the "LORD your God with all your heart" (consider Proverbs 4:23)? Is this more a reference to our intellect or to our emotions? Explain.
4. How is this different from the world's definition of love?
5. What are some ways that you can practically pursue better loving God with your whole heart?

### Day 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on Matthew 22:37. What is the second term Jesus uses to describe the depth of love for God we are to possess?
2. What does Matthew mean by the term *soul* (consider Matthew 26:38)?
3. How can we love God with our emotions?
4. Is it possible to love God with all our heart (intellectually) to the neglect of loving God with all our soul (emotionally), or vice versa? Are you guilty of either of these extremes?
5. How can you balance the intellectual and emotional components of your love for God?

### Day 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on Matthew 22:37. The third component of this love described by Christ is the mind. Is this the same term found in Deuteronomy 6:5?

2. How does the corresponding term in Deuteronomy 6:5 help define what Jesus meant by *mind* in this passage?
3. This seems to be the action part of love – the aspect of love that results in obedience. How did Jesus say we would live if we really loved Him (consider John 14:15)?
4. Evaluate your love for God in these terms. Does your intellectual and emotional love for Christ result in patterned obedience to His Word? What steps do you need to take to cultivate an obedient love – a “with all you mind” kind of love – for Jesus Christ?
5. How can we help our fellow-Christians cultivate this kind of love in their lives (consider Galatians 6:1, 2)?

**DAY 5– ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

1. Focus on Mark 12:30. What fourth term does Jesus utilize in Mark’s account of this description of true love for God?
2. What aspect of our lives does this seem to focus on?
3. How are you using your physical energy to love Christ? Are there ways that you could (and should) improve in this area?
4. How does God, through Jesus Christ, example this kind of love toward us (consider John 15:13; Romans 5:8)?
5. To whom must we appeal for this kind of love to be characteristic of our lives (consider Philippians 1:9)? Pray that God would cause “your love [for Him] to abound” in 2004.

**Sunday, December 28, 2003**

**SERMON NOTES**

**Text: Matthew 22:34-38**